

REMARKS

By this Amendment claims 1, 2 and 5 have been canceled and replaced by new claim 27, claims 4 and 11-14 have been amended to better depend from claim 27, and claims 16-26 have been amended relative to their introductory wording. Entry is requested.

In the outstanding Office Action the examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 14-16, 18-22 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bierbaum et al. in view of Hanson, he has rejected claims 4 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over these same two patents, further in view of Doty, and he has rejected claims 11-13 and 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over these same two patents, further in view of Childress.

These rejections are without merit.

Bierbaum et al. disclose a dental instrument deposit table which includes a base member 6 and a cover part 7 which is positionable on the base member and which defines a front portion 4 providing holder means 2 for dental instruments 2. The base member does not include media supply connectors or a coupling bar mounted beneath the base member so that media supply connectors thereon will extend either downwardly or forwardly. A second cover part defining troughs at a front side thereof for supporting dental instruments is not disclosed.

Hanson discloses a dental control unit with articulated whip arms connected to respective legs 39 that are pivotable about pivot shaft 45 to enable the conduits 15 to extend rearwardly and then up and forwardly relative to the base 11 and cover 13. The conduits and handpieces 16 can be positioned in troughs in the removable top cover 13.

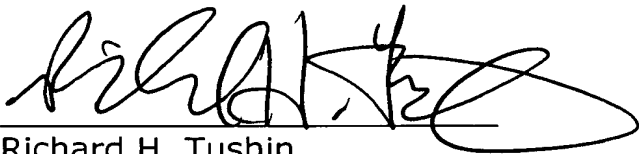
However, no possible combination of Hanson and Bierbaum et al. would suggest the structure defined in applicants' new claim 27. And nothing in Doty or Childress would overcome this deficiency.

With respect to applicants' claim 15, no combination of Bierbaum et al. and Hanson would provide a treatment element with a coupling bar to which a hose could be attached from the front of the base 6 in Bierbaum et al.

The examiner's rejections should be withdrawn and the presented claims allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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